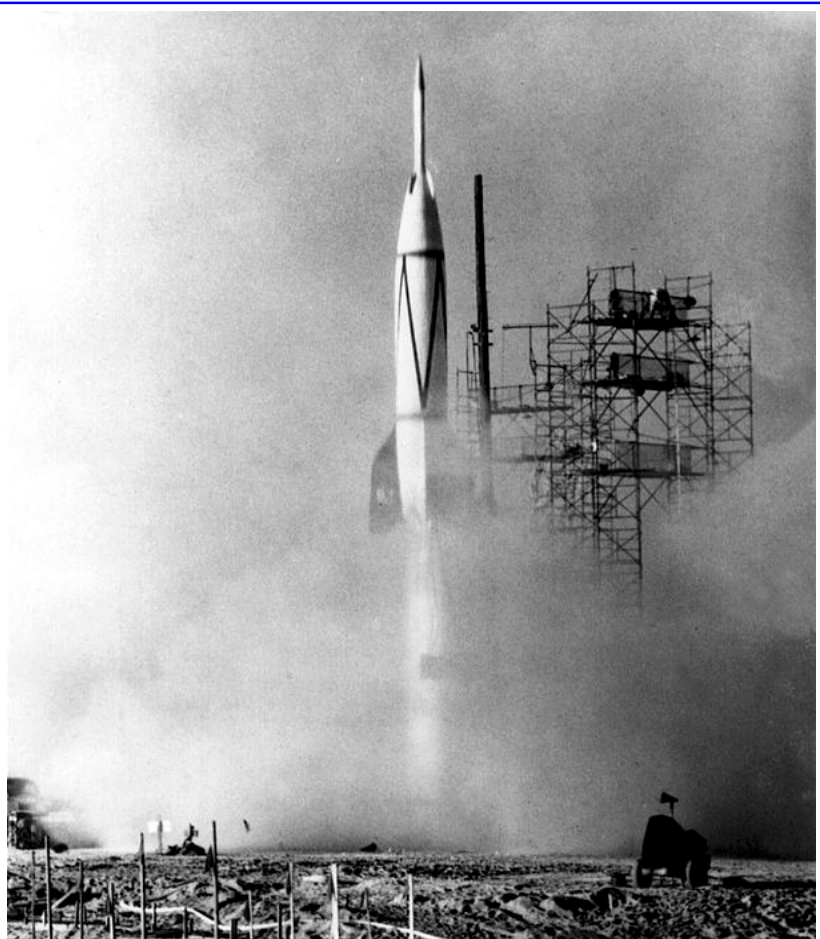


UNITED STATES SPACE PROGRAM FIRSTS

Robotic & Human Mission Firsts



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Foreword

This summary of the United States space program firsts was compiled from various reference publications available in the Kennedy Space Center Library Archives.

The list is divided into four sections. Robotic mission firsts, Human mission firsts, Space Shuttle mission firsts and Space Station mission firsts.

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DATE	ROBOTIC EVENTS	MISSION
07/24/1950	First missile launched at Cape Canaveral.	Bumper V-2
08/20/1953	First Redstone missile was fired.	Redstone 1
12/17/1957	First long range weapon launched.	Atlas ICBM
01/31/1958	First satellite launched by U.S.	Explorer 1
10/11/1958	First observations of Earth's and interplanetary magnetic field.	Pioneer 1
12/13/1958	First capsule containing living cargo, squirrel monkey, Gordo. Although not a NASA mission, data was utilized in Project Mercury planning.	Bioflight 1
02/17/1959	First fully instrumented Vanguard payload. First Earth photos from satellite.	Vanguard 2
03/03/1959	First U.S. sun-orbiter, a US-IGY space probe.	Pioneer IV
04/01/1960	First World's weather satellite.	Tiros 1
05/13/1960	First use of the Delta launch vehicle.	Echo
08/12/1960	First passive communications satellite by NASA.	Echo I
01/31/1961	First fully equipped, operational Mercury capsule suborbital test launch with primate, Ham, onboard.	MR-2
02/16/1961	First spacecraft orbited by an all solid rocket.	Explorer 9
08/16/1961	First to investigate solar winds, interplanetary magnetic fields, and energetic particles.	Explorer 12
11/18/1961	First test of spacecraft systems designed for future lunar and interplanetary missions.	Ranger II
11/29/1961	First Chimpanzee to orbit the Earth, Enos.	MA-5
01/26/1962	First measurement of interplanetary gamma ray flux.	Ranger 3
04/24/1962	First transmission of TV pictures in space.	Echo I
04/26/1962	First international satellite; joint venture between United States and United Kingdom.	Ariel I
07/10/1962	First privately financed satellite and First telephone and TV experiments transmitted.	Telstar 1
08/27/1962	First spacecraft to scan another planet [Venus].	Mariner 2
09/29/1962	First NASA launch from WTR. First use by NASA of the Thor Agena launch vehicle.	Alouette 1
12/13/1962	First active repeater communications satellite in an orbit.	Relay 1
02/14/1963	First test of a communication satellite in geosynchronous orbit.	Syncom I
04/18/1963	First in NASA sounding rocket program when NASA launched 85 pound scientific payload to 208 mile altitude.	Explorer 17
05/03/1963	First drop test of Project Apollo earth landing system.	Apollo Project
07/26/1963	First world's satellite to achieve synchronous 24-hour orbit.	Syncom 2
11/07/1963	First off-the-pad abort test of the Apollo launch escape system successfully tested at White Sands Missile Range, NM.	Apollo [Boilerplate #6]
11/22/1963	First live transmission of TV signals across Pacific via communications satellite.	Relay I
11/26/1963	First interplanetary monitoring platform to observe interplanetary space.	Explorer 18
11/27/1963	First successful launch of Atlas/Centaur.	Atlas/Centaur
01/29/1964	First test flight of the new Block II vehicles [SA-5].	Saturn 1
02/26/1964	First visual telecast via communications satellite of the Liston vs Clay Championship fight.	Relay II
04/08/1964	First Project Gemini flight which tested the Titan II launch vehicle.	GT-1
04/14/1964	First launch of Project Fire re-entry vehicle in support of Project Apollo.	Fire 1
05/28/1964	First major flight test in Project Apollo [SA-6].	Saturn 1

DATE	ROBOTIC EVENTS	MISSION
08/19/1964	First launch of a Delta using strap-on solid motors [3] to increase first stage thrust.	Syncom 3
08/28/1964	First NASA program to develop and operate advanced meteorological space observatories.	Nimbus 1
09/04/1964	First Orbiting Geophysical Observatory, designed to conduct numerous space experiments simultaneously.	OGO 1
09/18/1964	First demonstration of Launch Escape System [LES] design [SA-7].	Saturn
11/21/1964	First dual payload.	Explorer 24
11/28/1964	First successful Mars probe.	Mariner 4
12/08/1964	First test of Apollo emergency detection system at abort altitude.	Apollo Abort
01/22/1965	First Cartwheel configuration for Weather Bureau's Operational system.	Tiros 9
02/16/1965	First primary use of capacity-type penetration detector.	Pegasus 1
04/06/1965	First commercial satellite launched by NASA for COMSAT Corp on a reimbursable basis.	Intelsat 1 [F-1] [Early Bird]
07/01/1965	First U.S. Weather Bureau funded spacecraft.	Tiros 10
11/06/1965	First launch of a Geodetic Earth Orbiting Satellite.	GEOS 1 [Explorer 29]
02/03/1966	First TIROS Operational Satellite [TOS] of series funded by Environmental Science Services Administration.	ESSA 1
02/26/1966	First launch of two stage Saturn IB [AS-201] and Apollo spacecraft [009].	Apollo-Saturn
05/25/1966	First Saturn V stack from VAB to Launch Complex 39A.	Saturn 500F
05/30/1966	First U.S. spacecraft to soft land on the Moon.	Surveyor 1
07/01/1966	First Anchored Interplanetary Monitoring Platform [AIMP] designed to become the nation's first Moon satellite.	Explorer 33
08/10/1966	First U.S. spacecraft to orbit and photograph the Moon.	Lunar Orbiter I
08/25/1966	First use of spacecraft fuel cell power system [AS 202].	Apollo-Saturn
12/06/1966	First satellite in Applications Technology Satellite program. First successful transmission of fingerprint records via satellite reported by Government Photography 3/72.	ATS 1
03/14/1967	First pictures ever taken of an identifiable outline of a man-made object that landed on the Moon.	Lunar Orbiter III of Surveyor 1
04/26/1967	First satellite launch attempt from a mobile sea-based platform.	San Marco II
05/05/1967	First UK built satellite to extend atmospheric and ionospheric investigations	Ariel III [WSMC]
08/18/1967	First fireproof version of the spacecraft fabric Velcro is perfected for First crew assisted Apollo mission.	Apollo 7
08/26/1967	First Saturn V rollout from Vehicle Assembly Building [VAB] to Launch Complex 39A.	Apollo 4
11/09/1967	First flight test of Apollo/Saturn V space vehicle. First launch from Saturn V facilities LC-39 at KSC. First "all-up" test of a launch vehicle.	Apollo 4
12/13/1967	First NASA piggyback payload.	TETR-1/Pioneer 8
01/22/1968	First Earth orbital test [robotic] of Apollo spacecraft Lunar Module [LM].	Apollo 5
05/18/1968	First NASA launch using long-tank Thor-Agena [U].	Nimbus
09/18/1968	First global communications network satellite.	Intelsat III
12/05/1968	First satellite produced by the ESTC for the European Space Research Organization [ESRO].	HEOS 1
02/24/1969	First Mariner launch with the Atlas/Centaur launch vehicle.	Mariner 6
09/17/1969	First public display of lunar rock at Smithsonian Institution.	Apollo 11
11/21/1969	First United Kingdom communications satellite.	Skynet 1

DATE	ROBOTIC EVENTS	MISSION
03/20/1970	First communications satellite for NATO.	NATOSAT 1
12/11/1970	First operational second-generation meteorological satellite with three axis stabilization and nighttime viewing capability.	NOAA 1
01/25/1971	First flight of an uprated Atlas SLV-3C first stage.	Intelsat IV F-2
05/30/1971	First detailed map of another planet, Mars, prepared by photos taken by spacecraft. First spacecraft to orbit another planet in the solar system.	Mariner 9
03/02/1972	First spacecraft to reach Jupiter. First spacecraft to penetrate and cross the asteroid belt. First spacecraft to provide "in situ" measurements of Jupiter's environment. First spacecraft to take close-up pictures of Jupiter. First NASA spacecraft to use all-nuclear electrical power. First spacecraft capable of operating beyond the influence of the Sun. First spacecraft to fly beyond the orbit of Mars. First manmade object to leave solar system.	Pioneer 10
07/23/1972	First use of Delta Inertial Guidance System. First use of nine strap-on solid propellant motors on first stage.	Landsat 1 [formerly ERTS 1]
11/09/1972	First flight of a three-stage Delta "Straight Eight" configuration. First domestic communications satellite for Canada.	Anik A F-1 [Telesat 1]
04/05/1973	First spacecraft to fly to Saturn. First spacecraft to take close-up pictures of Saturn. First spacecraft to provide pictures of the polar regions of Jupiter.	Pioneer 11
11/03/1973	First spacecraft to explore the planet Mercury.	Mariner 10
12/16/1973	First spacecraft in a series of Atmosphere Explorers.	Explorer 51
02/11/1974	First launch of Titan/Centaur launch vehicle.	Titan-Centaur Proof Flight
04/13/1974	First satellite for domestic communications.	Westar 1
05/17/1974	First prototype geosynchronous orbit weather satellite.	SMS 1
11/03/1974	First polar images of Jupiter sent back to Earth.	Pioneer 11
12/10/1974	First launch in joint project of the U.S. and West Germany.	Helios 1
08/20/1975	First soft landing on Mars.	Viking 1
10/16/1975	First operational satellite in NOAA's geosynchronous weather satellite system.	SMS-C/GOES A
12/12/1975	First flight of the model 3914 Delta launch vehicle. First RCA domestic communications satellite.	Satcom 1 [RCA A]
02/19/1976	First U.S. Maritime Communications Satellite in geosynchronous orbit.	Marisat 1
04/17/1976	First perihelion passage as programmed closest approach to the sun.	Helios 2
05/13/1976	First communications satellite designed for lease to AT&T.	Comstar D-1
07/08/1976	First domestic communications satellite to service Indonesia's 3,000 islands & 120 million people.	Palapa 1
04/20/1977	First geosynchronous scientific satellite owned and developed by the European Space Agency.	Geos
08/12/1977	First spacecraft to detect high energy radiation, X-rays, gamma rays, and cosmic rays.	HEAO 1
08/20/1977	First spacecraft flyby of Neptune. First spacecraft flyby of Uranus. First photos taken of Neptune and Neptune's moons and satellites.	Voyager 2
08/25/1977	First communications satellite owned and operated by Italy to be placed in a geosynchronous orbit.	Sirio
09/05/1977	First spacecraft flyby of Jupiter. First spacecraft flyby of Saturn. First photos of Jupiter & Jupiter's moons.	Voyager 1

DATE	ROBOTIC EVENTS	MISSION
	First photos of Saturn's complex ring system, providing first close-ups of unexpected patterns and other characteristics which defied several gravitational theories.	Voyager 1 [con'td.]
10/22/1977	First International Sun-Earth Explorers in a three-spacecraft series.	ISEE 1/ISEE 2
02/09/1978	First military satellite designed for worldwide communications for military use.	FLTSATCOM 1
05/20/1978	First spacecraft placed in orbit around Venus.	Pioneer Venus 1
01/30/1979	First spacecraft devoted primarily to studying the near-Earth environment.	SCATHA
02/14/1980	First solar satellite designed to study solar phenomena.	SMM-A
11/15/1980	First satellite implementing a business communications system.	SBS 1
12/06/1980	First of a new generation of satellites to be deployed in geosynchronous orbit.	Intelsat V F-2
01/25/1983	First Infrared Astronomical Satellite all-sky survey for object that emit infrared radiation.	IRAS
06/28/1983	First venture of Hughes Aircraft into the field of operational spacecraft.	Galaxy 1
06/09/1984	First launch of the upgraded Atlas/Centaur launch vehicle.	Intelsat V F-9
07/28/1983	First Telstar owned by AT&T to be used as an operational spacecraft.	Telstar 3A
03/22/1985	First in a series of improved Commercial Communication satellites for Intelsat.	Intelsat V-A F-10
09/05/1986	First Strategic Defense Initiative Organization payload.	SDI-1
04/05/1990	First Pegasus satellite demonstration flight of the Pegasus launch vehicle.	Pegasus
07/03/1992	First of the Small Explorer [SMEX] fleet carrying four cosmic ray monitoring instruments.	SAMPEX
05/24/2000	First launch of the new Atlas III launch vehicle. First Russian rocket engine was used to power a U.S. launch vehicle.	Eutelsat W4

DATE	EARLY HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT EVENTS	MISSION
05/05/1961	First U.S. suborbital crew assisted space flight. First controlled spaceflight [A. Shepard].	MR-3
02/20/1962	First American crew assisted orbital space flight [J. Glenn]. First time frogmen were dropped into water during recovery to attach floatation device & assist in recovery. First astronaut to address the United Nations [J. Glenn].	MA-6
10/03/1962	First liquor in space -miniature of scotch.	MA-8
05/15/1963	First U.S. flight in excess of a day.	MA-9
10/31/1964	First NASA astronaut or trainee to lose life, Theodore Freeman.	N/A
03/23/1965	First control of re-entry flight path using maneuverable spacecraft. First crew assisted Gemini mission [V. Grissom/J. Young].	GT-3
06/03/1965	First space walk by an American [E. White]. First use of personal propulsion unit during EVA. First astronauts to wear the American flag on their suits. First use of the Mission Control Center in Houston.	GT-4
08/21/1965	First U.S. flight in excess of a week. First use of the fuel cell.	GT-5
12/04/1965	First U.S. space flight in which part of the flight was made without space suit.	GT 7
12/15/1965	First world's rendezvous between two spacecraft using GT-7.	GT-6A
03/16/1966	First civilian astronaut to fly in space [N. Armstrong]. First dual launch and docking with the Agena target.	GT-8
09/12/1966	First orbit Rendezvous and docking.	GT-11
01/27/1967	First scheduled crew assisted Apollo flight ended in tragedy with the loss of three astronauts [E. White/V. Grissom/R. Chaffee].	Apollo 1 [AS-204]
10/11/1968	First test of Apollo Command/Service Module in Earth orbit operated by astronauts in flight. First crew assisted mission in Apollo lunar landing program. First crew assisted launch from LC 34. First Saturn IB crew assisted flight. First CSM rendezvous & station-keeping maneuvers. First extensive checkout of CSM systems during mission. First eight Service Propulsion System firings. First CM landing in ocean. First live network TV broadcast from space First astronauts to experience head colds during mission.	Apollo 7 [Saturn IB] [AS-205] [CSM-101]
12/21/1968	First men to reach the vicinity of the moon. First crew assisted flight launched from Launch Ccomplex 39A. First crew assisted spacecraft landing in darkness. First crew assisted flight to orbit the Moon. First pictures of the Earth taken from the Moon. First crew assisted flight to escape Earth's gravity. First audio-video communication from lunar distance. First crew assisted Saturn V launch. First crew to spend Christmas in space. First humans to see far side of the Moon.	Apollo 8 [Saturn V] [AS-503] [CSM-103] [LTA-B]
03/03/1969	First crew assisted flight test of lunar module. First launch of complete Apollo configuration [Saturn V vehicle, CSM, and LM]. First docking in space of CSM and LM. First firing of LM ascent and descent engines in space. First separation, rendezvous & redocking of two spacecraft. First EVA by an astronaut completely free of spaceship life support equipment [Schweickart, LM Pilot]. First astronauts to transfer from one spacecraft to another [McDivitt and Schweickart].	Apollo 9 [Saturn V] [AS-504] [CSM-104 Gumdrops] [LM-3 Spider]

DATE	EARLY HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT EVENTS	MISSION
05/18/1969	<p>First crew that shaved in space.</p> <p>First transmitted color photographs of the full Earth with Westinghouse color TV camera.</p> <p>First demonstration rendezvous in lunar orbit.</p> <p>First burning of LM descent stage engine in lunar landing configuration.</p> <p>First LM steerable antenna at lunar distances.</p> <p>First LM within 15,240 meters of lunar surface.</p> <p>First in-flight test of the abort guidance system.</p> <p>First in-flight use of VHF ranging.</p> <p>First landing radar test in near-lunar environment.</p> <p>First crew assisted navigational, visual, and photographic evaluations.</p> <p>First launch from Launch Complex 39B.</p>	<p>Apollo 10</p> <p>[Saturn V] [AS-505]</p> <p>[CSM-106 Charlie Brown]</p> <p>[LM-4 Snoopy]</p>
07/16/1969	<p>First crew assisted landing on the Moon and return.</p> <p>First lunar surface extravehicular activity [EVA].</p> <p>First man-made items on lunar surface.</p> <p>First human foot print on lunar surface [Armstrong's left foot].</p> <p>First seismometer deployed on Moon.</p> <p>First laser reflector deployed on Moon.</p> <p>First solar wind experiment deployed on Moon.</p> <p>First lunar soil and rock samples returned to Earth.</p> <p>First test of landing radar and other landing systems on LM under operational conditions.</p> <p>First use of mobile quarantine facility.</p> <p>First use of the Lunar Receiving Laboratory at MSC.</p> <p>First meal eaten on Moon consisted of four bacon squares, three sugar cookies, peaches, pineapple-grapefruit drink and coffee.</p>	<p>Apollo 11</p> <p>[Saturn V] [AS-506]</p> <p>[CSM-107 Columbia]</p> <p>[LM-5 Eagle]</p>
11/14/1969	<p>First use of S-IVB stage to perform an evasive maneuver.</p> <p>First use of a hybrid trajectory.</p> <p>First demonstration of a point-to-point landing capability.</p> <p>First use of two lunar surface EVA periods.</p> <p>First Apollo Lunar Surface Experiments Package [ALSEP] deployed on Moon.</p> <p>First {and only} humans to see Sun eclipsed by Earth.</p> <p>First deployment of the erectable S-band antenna.</p> <p>First use of geologist to plan lunar surface traverse in real time.</p> <p>First documentation of samples as they were taken.</p> <p>First double core tube sample taken.</p> <p>First return of spacecraft parts from lunar surface [Surveyor 3].</p> <p>First Saturn V hit by lightning [while passing through a low cloud the vehicle caused an electrical discharge through the Saturn to the ground].</p> <p>First multispectral terrain photography from lunar orbit.</p>	<p>Apollo 12</p> <p>[Saturn V] [AS-507]</p> <p>[CSM-108 Yankee Clipper]</p> <p>[LM-6 Intrepid]</p>
04/11/1970	<p>First American orbital emergency during mission.</p> <p>First operational problem-solving on real-time basis.</p> <p>First use of LM as "lifeboat" when SM was powered down.</p> <p>First operational firing of lunar module descent engine in lunar to change velocity of CSM/LM while docked.</p> <p>First attitude positioning of CSM/LM with LM guidance systems.</p> <p>First demonstrated feasibility of conserving consumables by powering down CSM.</p> <p>First safe recovery of astronauts from disabled CSM.</p> <p>First crew assisted mission to experience engine cutoff.</p>	<p>Apollo 13</p> <p>[Saturn V] [AS-508]</p> <p>[CSM-109 Odyssey]</p> <p>[LM-7 Aquarius]</p>
01/31/1971	<p>First astronaut to wear red racing stripes on spacesuit [Shepard].</p> <p>First and only golf ball hit on Moon [Shepard].</p> <p>First use of mobile equipment transporter.</p> <p>First use of shortened descent and rendezvous technique.</p> <p>First extensive orbital science period conducted during CSM solo operations.</p>	<p>Apollo 14</p> <p>[Saturn V] [AS-509]</p> <p>[CSM-110 Kitty Hawk]</p> <p>[LM-8 Antares]</p>

DATE	EARLY HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT EVENTS	MISSION
07/26/1971	First use of Lunar Roving Vehicle on Moon. First lunar orbital science payload carried in SM bay and operated by CSM pilot. First ground-controlled remote operation of TV camera on the Moon. First sub-satellite launched from CSM in lunar orbit. First space walk from CM during return flight to Earth. First Apollo all-Air Force crew. First piece of sculpture on Moon [Fallen Astronaut].	Apollo 15 [Saturn V] [AS-510] [CSM-112 Endeavour] [LRV-1]
04/16/1972	First landing in and exploration of lunar highlands.	Apollo 16 [Saturn V] [AS-511] [CSM-113 Casper] [LM-11 Orion] [LRV-2]
12/07/1972	First scientist [geologist] astronaut in space [H. Schmitt]. First longest single lunar surface excursion. First longest total lunar surface excursion. First longest lunar distance traveled by LRV on one traverse. First nighttime launch.	Apollo 17 [Saturn V] [AS-512] [CSM-114 America] [LM-12 Challenger] [LRV-3]
05/14/1973	First largest habitable structure placed in orbit [to date].	Skylab 1 [Saturn V] [AS-513]
05/25/1973	First crew assisted visit to Skylab workshop. First three-man crew to stay in space for 28 days. First major repairs to an orbiting space station. First occupancy of a U.S. space station & working laboratory.	Skylab 2 [Saturn IB] [AS-206] [CSM-116]
11/16/1973	Was the longest U.S. mission. 1,214 orbits which lasted 84 days, 1 hour, 15 minutes and 32 seconds. First crew to spend Christmas in a Space Station workshop environment. First strike in space [astronauts unhappy with workload].	Skylab 4 [Saturn IB] [AS-208] [SM-119]
07/15/1975	First joint Russian and American space venture. First major cooperation between only two nations engaged in crew assisted space flight. First meeting of two crew assisted spacecraft of different nations in space. First docking and first visits by astronauts and cosmonauts into each other's spacecraft. First International crew assisted space flight.	Apollo Soyuz Test Project [ASTP] [Saturn IB] [AS-210] [CSM-111]

DATE	SPACE SHUTTLE EVENTS	MISSION
06/18/1977	First 747/carrier flight of the Space Shuttle orbiter.	Enterprise
08/12/1977	First crew assisted free flight of a Space Shuttle [F. Haise & G. Fullerton].	Enterprise
12/05-16/1977	First reported successful conclusion for the open sea tests on shuttle retrieval equipment conducted at Port Everglades, FL.	N/A
03/24/1979	First time a Space Shuttle was transported to its launching base when Columbia arrived at Kennedy Space Center.	Columbia
05/01/1979	First time the complete Space Shuttle configuration was assembled in the VAB & transported to Launch Complex 39A.	Enterprise
02/20/1981	First Flight Readiness Firing [FRF] of Shuttle main engines.	STS 1 [Columbia]
04/12/1981	First flight of Space Transportation system reusable space vehicle which provided the first successful retrieval of the Solid Rocket Boosters [SRB] on 4/13/1981.	STS 1 [Columbia]
11/12/1981	First re-use of a crew assisted space vehicle.	STS 2 [Columbia]
03/22/1982	First Space Shuttle landing at White Sands.	STS 3 [Columbia]
06/27/1982	First Getaway Specials aboard a shuttle mission.	STS 4 [Columbia]
11/11/1982	First operational STS mission. First deployment of two commercial communications satellites. First spacecraft crew of four. First flight of mission specialist astronauts [J. Allen & W. Lenoir].	STS 5 [Columbia]
04/04/1983	First flight of the orbiter Challenger. First Tracking and Data Relay Satellite successfully deployed. First space walk of shuttle program [D. Peterson & S. Musgrave].	STS 6 [Challenger]
06/18/1983	First flight by an American woman astronaut [S. Ride].	STS 7 [Challenger]
08/30/1983	First night launch and landing of a Space Shuttle. First space flight by an African American - [G. Bluford]. First night landing at Edwards Air Force Base.	STS 8 [Challenger]
11/28/1983	First Spacelab mission [Spacelab-1]. First rollback of orbiter from Launch Complex 39A to Vehicle Assembly Building. First flight with six crew members in single spacecraft. First European Space Agency [ESA] astronaut representative [U. Merbold]. First flight of payload specialist [B. Lichtenberg].	STS 9 [Columbia]
02/03/1984	First untethered space walks performed in space. [B. McCandless/R. Stewart] First use of the Manned Maneuvering Unit [MMU]. First satellite refurbished & flown again [SPAS]. First shuttle landing at Kennedy Space Center on 2/11/1984 @ 7:16 am. First woman test conductor during U.S. space launch.	STS 41B [Challenger]
04/06/1984	First in-flight capture, repair and redeployment of an orbiting satellite. [SMM and LDEF]. First direct ascent trajectory for Space Shuttle launch.	STS 41C [Challenger]
08/30/1984	First flight of orbiter Discovery. First pad abort at T-4 seconds. First deployment of three satellites on single mission. First flight to include a non-astronaut crewman [C. Walker].	STS 41D [Discovery]
10/05/1984	First space flight to include two women; [S. Ride/K. Sullivan]. First American woman to walk in space [K. Sullivan].	STS 41G [Challenger]
11/08/1984	First retrieval and return of satellites from Earth orbit.	STS 51A [Discovery]
01/24/1985	First mission totally dedicated to Department of Defense [DOD].	STS 51C [Discovery]
04/12/1985	First Congressional observer to make a space flight [U.S. Sen. E. J. "Jake" Garn (R-Utah)].	STS 51D [Discovery]

DATE	SPACE SHUTTLE EVENTS	MISSION
04/29/1985	First operational flight for the European Space Agency Spacelab 3. First flight of animals with shuttle flight crew – two monkeys and 24 rodents.	STS 51B [Challenger]
10/03/1985	First flight of orbiter Atlantis.	STS 51J [Atlantis]
10/30/1985	First dedicated German Spacelab mission.	STS 61A [Challenger]
01/12/1986	First flight of Columbia after major modifications.	STS 61C [Columbia]
01/28/1986	First in-flight accident involving a Space Shuttle. First teacher in space [C. McAuliff]. First shuttle launch from Launch Complex 39B. First woman astronaut to die during space flight [J. Resnik].	STS 51L [Challenger]
09/29/1988	First flight of Space Shuttle since Challenger accident – Return to Flight.	STS 26 [Discovery]
05/04/1989	First U.S. planetary mission in 11 years and the First deep space probe on a Space Shuttle mission [Magellan].	STS 30 [Atlantis]
01/09/1990	First night launch since Return to Flight.	STS 33 [Discovery]
02/28/1990	First shuttle flight delay due to crew member's illness [J. Creighton].	STS 36 [Atlantis]
04/28/1991	First unclassified Department of Defense [DOD] payload.	STS 39 [Discovery]
08/02/1991	First scheduled landing at Kennedy Space Center since 1986.	STS 43 [Atlantis]
05/07/1992	First flight of orbiter Endeavour. First use of drag chute during landing; deployed after nose gear touchdown for data collection only. First time astronauts attached live rocket motor to orbiting satellite. First U.S. orbital flight to feature four EVAs two were longest in U.S. history to date – 8 hours 29 minutes [Thuot/Akers/Thornton/Hieb]. First space flight to involve three crew members simultaneously working outside spacecraft.	STS 49 [Endeavour]
06/25/1992	First Extended Duration Orbiter mission. First landing at Kennedy Space Center [KSC] for orbiter. First flight for orbiter after extensive modifications at Rockwell in California. First flight of the U.S. Microgravity Laboratory-1 [USML-1].	STS 50 [Columbia]
09/20/1992	First time drag chute deployed in operational mode before nose gear touchdown. First African-American woman to fly in space [M. Jemison]. First married couple to fly in space [M. Lee & J. Davis].	STS 47 [Endeavour]
06/21/1993	First flight of the Spacehab module.	STS 57 [Endeavour]
09/12/1993	First Kennedy Space Center [KSC] night landing.	STS 51 [Discovery]
12/02/1993	First Hubble Space Telescope Servicing mission.	STS 61 [Endeavour]
02/03/1994	First flight of a Russian Cosmonaut aboard a Space Shuttle [S. Krikalev].	STS 60 [Discovery]
09/20/1994	First untethered U.S. space walk in 10 years [M. Lee & C. Meade]. First flight of Lidar In-space Technology Experiment [LITE].	STS 64 [Discovery]
02/03/1995	First female Shuttle pilot [E. Collins]. First approach/fly around with Space Station Mir.	STS 63 [Discovery]
03/18/1995	First advertised Space Shuttle mission connected to an Internet linkup.	STS 67 [Endeavour]
06/27/1995	First docking of a Space Shuttle to Space Station Mir.	STS 71 [Atlantis]

DATE	SPACE SHUTTLE EVENTS	MISSION
07/13/1995	First use of the newly opened Mission Control Center at Johnson Space Center.	STS 70 [Discovery]
09/07/1995	First time two different payloads were retrieved and deployed during same mission [Spartan 201-03 and Wake Shield Facility-2].	STS 69 [Endeavour]
09/16/1996	First U.S. crew exchange aboard Russian Space Station Mir. First U.S. and world human spaceflight record set [S. Lucid]. Lucid's long duration spaceflight set new U.S. record as well as world record for a woman in space.	STS 79 [Atlantis]
11/19/1996	First time 2 free-flying research spacecraft deployed and retrieved [ORFEUS-SPAS II and the Wake Shield Facility-3].	STS 80 [Columbia]
01/12/1997	First plants to complete a life cycle in space – a crop of wheat grown from seed to seed.	STS 81 [Atlantis]
07/01/1997	First re-flight of same vehicle, crew and payloads.	STS 94 [Columbia]
11/19/1997	First Heads-Up ascent during first stage of liftoff.	STS 87 [Columbia]
01/22/1998	First flight Space Shuttle Main Engine [SSME] Block IIA.	STS 89 [Endeavour]
04/17/1998	First Kennedy Space Center employee to be chosen as an astronaut and to fly on Space Shuttle mission [K. Hire].	STS 90 [Columbia]
06/02/1998	First flight of the Super Lightweight External Tank. First docking mission for Discovery. Orbiter docked with the Space Station Mir in the final Shuttle-Mir docking mission.	STS 91 [Discovery]
10/29/1998	First Mercury astronaut to fly in Space Shuttle [U.S. Sen. J. Glenn (Ohio)]. First Space Shuttle launch watched by a U. S. President [B. Clinton].	STS 95 [Discovery]
12/04/1998	First U.S. assembly flight of International Space Station.	STS 88 [Endeavour]
07/23/1999	First flight with female mission commander [E. Collins].	STS 93 [Columbia]
12/19/1999	First Space Shuttle crew to spend Christmas in Space [Hubble Space Telescope was released on Christmas day from Discovery's cargo bay after the third servicing].	STS 103 [Discovery]
05/19/2000	First flight of the glass cockpit.	STS 101 [Atlantis]
10/11/2000	First California landing in three years. STS 92 marked the 100 th Space Shuttle mission and included the 100 th spacewalk in the U.S. space program.	STS 92 [Discovery]
03/05/2001	First time two Shuttles have been ferried simultaneously. [Atlantis returning from Edwards Air Force Base and Columbia returning from Palmdale after modifications.]	Atlantis to SLF Columbia to CCAFS

SPECIAL NOTE: 1997 was the **first** year that every flight ended with a KSC landing.

DATE	SPACE STATION EVENTS	MISSION
12/04/1998	First U.S. Space Station Assembly Flight	STS 88 [Endeavour]
10/31/2000	First crew member International Space Station residents [B. Shepard/Y. Gidzenko/S. Krikalev]	2R [Soyuz Spacecraft]
03/08/2001	First female International Space Station resident [S. Helms]	STS 102 [Discovery]
04/19/2001	First Canadian to ever leave a spacecraft and float free in space [C. Hadfield] to help install the Canadian Robot Arm [Space Station Remote Manipulator System (SSRMS)]	STS 100 [Endeavour]

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